Jallianwala Bagh Massacre: 100 Years – A Tribute

A REPORT

Of the activities initiated by

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

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100 years ago, on the 13th of April 1919, a peaceful congregation of about 20,000 men, women and children assembled in Jallianwala Bagh at Amritsar on Baisakhi Day – one of Punjab’s largest religious festivals – to protest against the Rowlatt Act taking the casualties to almost 1000.

The ghastly massacre sent a terrific wave of shock, horror, consternation and sorrow throughout the length and breadth of the country. The Jallianwala tragedy changed the course of history and the complexion of the struggle of India to overthrow the yoke of British rule. It served as the biggest source of warmth and inspiration to freedom fighters devoted to the cause of Indian independence for the next 28 years, when ultimately India attained freedom from foreign rule.

A 100 years later the world and humanity is still hungering for peace. While conflicts and struggles continue unabated around different parts of the world, the global challenge today remains how a peaceful society coexists. The world community and the entire humanity are of the firm belief that violence can never produce peace. In his discourse on the essence of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi had time and again reiterated that “An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind”. Fortunately there are growing numbers of voices of sanity and nonviolence across the globe.
Ranging from the Buddhist principles of ‘non-killing’ to Mahatma Gandhi’s eternal philosophy of ‘non-violence’ based on his strong conviction to truth and dharma, as we observe the centenary year of the historic Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, this occasion once again reminds us about our commitment to a peaceful and nonviolent society where each human being exists within the context of interrelationship that include other human beings, all living being and the natural world.

This year on April 13, 2019, as part of the centenary commemoration of the Jallianwala Bagh incident, several institutions in Delhi and NCR including institutions from different states such as Assam, Chattisgarh, Shillong, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Sonepat and Panipat as part of the GSDS initiative took part in the commemorative programme by involving the children to take part in various creative activities to raise awareness about the significance of the tragedy that unfolded 100 years ago.

The institutions that took part in the commemorative programme included: Axom Vidya Mandir, Noonmati, Guwahati; Geet Vitan Kala Kendra of Performing Arts, Chattisgarh; B S F Senior Secondary School, Umpling, Shillong, Meghalaya; Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; Delhi Public School, Sonepat; Delhi Public School, Panipat City; Summerfields School Gurugram; Blue Bells School, Gurugram; Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya Ishwar Nagar Delhi; Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi, Sulabh Public School, Little Flowers Public School, Shahadra, New Delhi and Delhi Public School, Mathura Road.

Children of Geet Vitan Kala Kendra School of Performing Arts Chattisgarh paying tributes to the Martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh in their school on April 13, 2019.
Almost 3000 children from 11 schools from the country took part in the programme wherein they not only spoke about the event that shook humanity 100 years ago, but also gave their ideas of peace and how the world should adopt this for saving humanity. They also engaged themselves in creative pursuits, putting their thoughts into paper through art, poetry, music and prayer.
The principal of all the participating institutions also spoke on the occasion and led the children and staff into a silent tribute as a respect to the martyrs.
Children of Axom Vidya Mandir, Nonmati, Guwahati took part in different activities conducted as part of the commemorative programme. Painting competitions among the students of lower class, awareness meeting was organised. Shri Kiran Chandra Das, Retired Head Master Public High School, Guwahati addressed the gathering.

Children of Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya, Ishwar Nagar displayed their creative talents by painting the tragic incident of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre that happened 100 years ago. They also painted impressions and messages of peace as part of the commemorative programme. A candle-light march was also organised as a tribute to the martyrs.
Students of Little Flowers School Shahadra share their thoughts of peace, environmental protection, paintings of Jallianwala Bagh massacre as part of the commemorative programme organised by GSDS in different parts of the country.

Students of Delhi Public School, Mathura Road led by Mrs. Sangeeta Narang and other teachers pay tribute to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. Mrs. Narang also spoke about the tragic incident and how it plunged Mahatma Gandhi more actively into the Indian Freedom Movement.